ABSTRACT BOOK

27TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

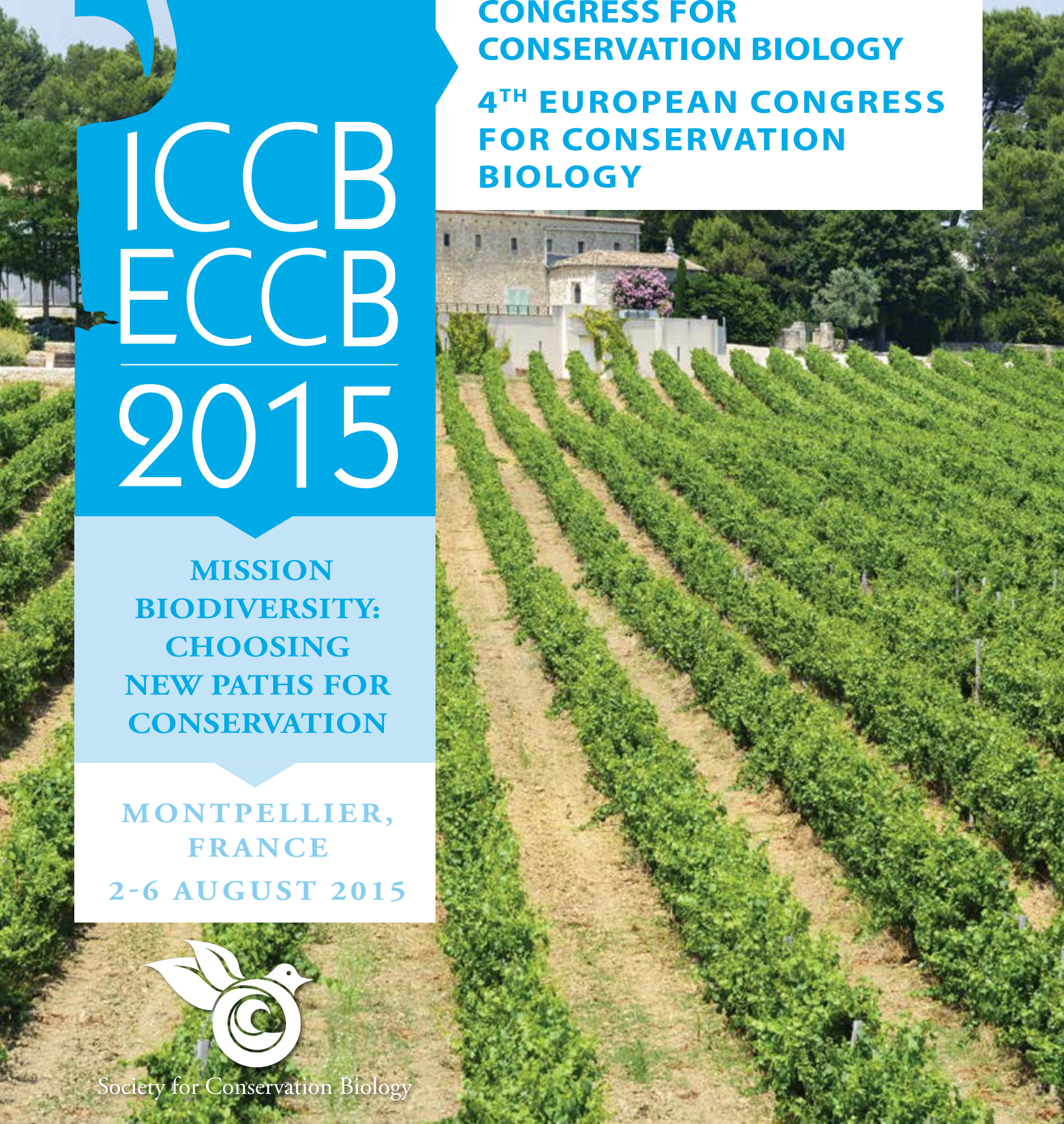
4TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

ICCB ECCB 2015

MISSION BIODIVERSITY: CHOOSING NEW PATHS FOR CONSERVATION

MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

2-6 AUGUST 2015



Society for Conservation Biology

ICCB ECCB 2015

ABSTRACT BOOK

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), a global society of conservation students and professionals, held in August 2015 in Montpellier, France its 27th International Congress for Conservation Biology, jointly hosted with the 4th European Congress for Conservation Biology. SCB celebrated its 30th birthday with its largest conference ever, comprised of 2063 attendees, 782 poster presentations and 943 oral presentations organized in 74 contributed sessions and 73 symposia sessions.

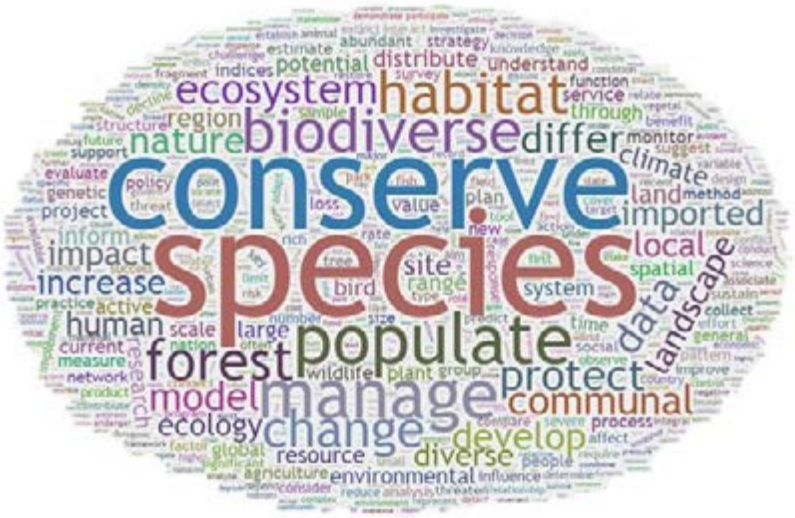
The theme of the conference "Mission Biodiversity: Choosing new paths for conservation" represented a response to the fact that the traditional methods for conserving biodiversity need to adapt and change to match the ever-changing nature and needs of today's world. It emphasized that the same rapid and ongoing biophysical and societal changes our world is facing also affect conservation science and practice.

We are asking very different questions than what we asked years ago, and using different methods to get the data we need to answer these questions. Increasingly, we work with people from different disciplines such as political science, computer science, economics, and social science, among others. We investigate different challenges that range from new pathogens and invasive species to new drivers of habitat loss such as oil palm production in West Africa to tangled socio-political issues such as the growing illegal trade of species and their parts on the internet. We are developing new methods and tools to address these challenges with on-the-ground conservation, such as using drones and new remote-sensing technology for monitoring and conservation enforcement or citizen science projects for collecting data and engaging the public. Unsurprisingly, one of the most common words in abstracts presented at ICCB-ECCB abstracts was "change." The ICCB-ECCB 2015 theme and its scientific content, summarized in this Abstract Book, document these changes and our need to keep up with, and even anticipate them for better conservation science and practice.

ICCB-ECCB 2015 featured several presentations, workshops and training courses that provided solutions to prevent or mitigate anthropogenic threats, and celebrated several exemplary success stories through the mini-plenaries from the Society's Distinguished Service and Early Career Conservationist awardees. ICCB-ECCB 2015 also featured an open debate starring Peter Kareiva and Clive Spash on Conservation Biology today; and how its fundamental principles and values are changing over time.

We would like to thank all participants, organizers and sponsors of ICCB-ECCB 2015 for their excellent work at the conference, and we look forward to many more conservation success stories in the coming years.

—Piero Visconti, Marit Wilkerson, Edward Game and Raphael Mathevet



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For any queries on regards to this book of abstracts please contact Nathan Spillman nspillman@conbio.org

Society for Conservation Biology

ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

SCB is a global community of conservation professionals with members working in more than 100 countries who are dedicated to advancing the science and practice of conserving Earth's biological diversity. The Society's membership comprises a wide range of people interested in the conservation and study of biological diversity: resource managers, educators, government and private conservation workers, and students.

SCB publishes the flagship peer-reviewed journal of the field, *Conservation Biology,* and the cutting-edge online journal, *Conservation Letters.* The Society provides many benefits to its community, including local, regional, and global networking, an active conservation-policy program, and free online access to publications for members in developing countries. SCB also administers a postdoctoral program, the David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program, sponsored by the Cedar Tree Foundation.

Guillaume GIGOT, SPN ; Bertrand Schatz, CNRS

Facing present statement of ongoing biodiversity loss and limited financial resources allocated to its conservation, collective tools permitting to prioritize and implement relevant operators of conservation are crucial. Red Lists (RL) have been multiplied at several scales (regional, national, subnational) during the last decades. We built here a detailed overview of the current state of national and subnational red lists (NRL and SRL) in the Europe and Mediterranean through a survey of 53 countries. We identified NRL in 41 countries and SRL in 16 countries, but with geographical and taxonomics gaps in RL coverage and with disparities in methodological approaches. Further than a statistical approach (methodology, species assessed, stakeholders, funding), we highlight the influences of the experience of stakeholders and several particular national cases. This first international review of the uses of RL in national conservation programs confirms the decisive role of NRL for conservation actions, in particular during priorization processes. We propose a set of recommendations to increase harmonization between NRL and SRL and among neighbouring countries and to strengthen their scope for conservation.

EUROPEAN OVERSEAS, NEW FRONTIER FOR BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH?

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Fundo Regional da Ciência e Tecnologia
Eduard DWYER, EurOcean ; Paul HOETJES, Ministry of Economic Affairs ; Soraya SIERRA, Naturalis ; Marimar VILLAGARCIA, PLOCAN ; Philippe FELDMANN, Agence Nationale de la Recherche ; Josiane IRISSIN-MANGATA, Conseil Régional de La Réunion ; Susana FIGUEIREDO, SPI

The European Overseas Areas are strategically positioned to become a strong focus of biodiversity research in support of sustainable development. In fact, they constitute a complex geopolitical entity extending Europe's presence across the globe, incorporating all ecosystems and oceans from the tropics to the poles. Europe's overseas are mainly islands (most of them located in Biodiversity Hotspots), but also include French Guyana, one of the least disturbed areas of rain forest on Earth. Fulfilling European international commitments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, will require special consideration to its overseas areas. This has started to be expressed in the scope of policy instruments, such as the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and funding mechanisms, such as the LIFE+ fund, the BEST Initiative or H2020. The immense diversity of biogeographical settings and the different levels of human pressure encompassed by Europe's Overseas areas allows the testing of comparison-based hypothesis, linking patterns to processes. This unique advantage makes them an ideal setting for biodiversity research of both global significance and local relevance. Such research, however, can only be accomplished through an extensive supporting network. This is where the European FP7 funded NetBiome partnership is making a unique contribution. NetBiome is a consortium of entities from knowledge institutions, business, government and civil society, dedicated to the mobilization of stakeholders to identify and address priority challenges in reconciling conservation of (sub)tropical biodiversity with the sustainable development of Europe's regions and territories, based on the benefits from high biodiversity. Seven international research projects are currently being funded through NetBiome, and the research recommendations under preparation will feed a second call in the near future.

A CLOSER LOOK AT BRAZIL`S FOREST CODE: ASSESSING THE NEW LAW IMPACTS

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Recent changes in Brazil`s Forest Code raise environmental concerns for biodiversity conservation worldwide. Over half (53%) of Brazil`s native vegetation occurs within private properties and the Forest Code is the only law protecting native vegetation within private land, enacted to conserve native vegetation, water resources and prevent soil erosion by protecting sensitive areas. In 2012 a revision of the Forest Code downgraded native vegetation protection to favor landholders who had used their land illegally. For example, changes included amnesty to all illegal deforestation by 2008 and reduction on the required buffer zone extent nearby sensitive areas. Broad assessments have estimated that these measures decreased the total area to be restored from 50 to 21 million ha. However, broad assessments may underestimate the total area changes, considering sensitive areas buffer zones range from 5 m – 500 m. Therefore, fine scale analyses of the impacts of the changes are needed. In this study, we used high resolution imagery to undertake a fine scale analysis of the impacts of Brazil`s Forest Code within a case study in Atlantic Forest. We identify areas at risk of deforestation and areas to restore in one of the world's top five biodiversity hotspots with less than 16% of its original extent. We mapped 15 watersheds (67,000 ha) in the buffer zone of a protected area under a fine resolution (1:3000). Here we present preliminary results on three different policy scenarios: i) current; ii) under the old forest code and iii) under the new forest code. Our study is the first fine-scale study to identify key areas to restore and to conserve based on the Forest Code changes. Furthermore, we expect to implement our findings through a strong stakeholder engagement effort, working close to government, landowners and other key institutions.